

said divalent metal salt of said acrylic acid compound per unit of said acrylic acid compound and in the range of from about 0 to about 2.25 units of said monovalent metal salt of said acrylic acid compound per unit of said acrylic acid compound, and

said acrylic acid compound is represented by the formula  $\text{CH}_2=\text{CR}-\text{COOH}$  and R is hydrogen or a methyl group[.]

and further wherein

said gel is stable at temperatures up to about 450 degrees Fahrenheit.

B. Please cancel claim 3 without prejudice.

C. In claim 4 please delete "claim 3" and insert therefore --claim 2--.

D. In claim 5 please delete "claim 3" and insert therefor --claim 2--.

E. Please amend claim 12 as follows:

12. A method of making a gel which is not water soluble comprised of making a water soluble polymer comprising:

forming a polymer precursor by mixing an acrylic acid compound with a material selected from the group consisting of a divalent metal compound, a monovalent metal compound and mixtures thereof,

combining a polymerization initiator with said precursor, [and]

permitting said precursor to form said water soluble polymer[;] and

combining said water soluble polymer with a cross linking agent to form said gel;

wherein